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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
" 2 WM. J. HARRIS, DIRECTOR

TELEPHONES AND TELEGRAPHS
AND
MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC FIRE-ALARM AND
POLICE-PATROL SIGNALING SYSTEMS

1912



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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,
Washington, D. C., October 15, 1914.

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the report on the census of telephones, telegraphs, and municipal electric fire-alarm and police-patrol signaling systems for 1912.

This is the second report on these industries that has been prepared in conformity with the requirements of the act of Congress of June 7, 1906. The canvass for the collection of these statistics was started early in April, 1913. It generally requires about a year to collect satisfactory reports from all establishments covered by a census of this character. The field work for this census, however, was completed by the middle of October, 1913. The United States totals were published in January and February, 1914. A preliminary bulletin was published during June, 1914, which presented the principal data in regard to each branch of the census in each state. The results were made public at an earlier date than they were published for preceding censuses. It was not thought essential, therefore, to hasten the publication of the final report transmitted herewith, and only a limited force was employed in its preparation.

The various telephone and telegraph companies cooperated with the Bureau of the Census in devising the forms of the schedules used in the collection of these statistics. At prior censuses the office experienced considerable difficulty in securing complete reports from a number of companies. No difficulties of this character were encountered during the census of 1912, and I feel that this willingness on the part of the companies to furnish the information was due very largely to securing their cooperation through their associations.

The statistics were collected and the report prepared under the supervision of Mr. William M. Steuart, chief statistician for manufactures.

Acknowledgment should also be made of the services of Mr. John W. Curry and Mr. W. A. Countryman, who assisted in the preparation of the text and analytical tables.

Respectfully,


Director of the Census.

To Hon. WILLIAM C. REDFIELD,
Secretary of Commerce.